

## UNCLASSIFIED

AFRICOM Civilian Casualty Tracker 2018				
Allegation Date	Description:	Location	Closure Date	Outcome
1/19/2018	www.somalimemo.net, published a report claiming U.S.-backed Somali forces attacked a school in Jameeco Jilyaale the previous night. The article claims Somali Forces trained by "US Bancroft troops" attacked an Islamic School, killing five children and a teacher. The article alleges the joint force then abducted the children.	IVO Jameeco Jilyalle, Somalia	2/14/2018	<b>CREDIBLE:</b> Classified evidence leading to an assessment that the civilian casualties were the result of al-Shabaab employing human shields.
2/20/2018	During a partnered clearing operation with Kenyan Defense Forces (KDF), U.S. Forces reported a CIVCAS incident (gunshot to the arm) as a result of the exchange of small arms fire between the KDF and al-Shabaab. The 20 year old female was treated by the KDF and U.S. forces. U.S. FORCES did not fire their weapons and it is unclear if KDF or AS SAF was to blame for the injury to the female.	IVO Sungunni, Somalia	2/20/2018	<b>CREDIBLE:</b> SELF-REPORTED. No media involvement.
2/22/2018	The initial allegation of CIVCAS was received in the form of a media query concerning an article published on the Voice of America (VOA) website, 22 February 2018. In the article, the author indicates that unnamed Somali officials are investigating the strike to determine whether civilians were present with al-Shabaab and killed as a result of the strike.	IVO Jamaame, Somalia	3/8/2018	<b>NOT/NOT CREDIBLE:</b> Classified evidence captured at the scene proves story was incorrect.

UNCLASSIFIED

## UNCLASSIFIED

4/1/2018	Multiple CIVCAS allegations of a U.S. strike that took place on 1 April 2018. The time frame and geographic location coincide with a known strike, however, the number and type of casualties are inconsistent with confirmed BDA.	IVO El Buur, Somalia	4/5/2018	<b>NOT/NOT CREDIBLE:</b> Intelligence sources indicate that all occupants of the vehicle were adult males. Two al-Shabaab mid-to-high level leaders were killed in the strike.
4/10/2018	On 10 April 2018, at approximately 1620Z, USAFRICOM was made aware of an allegation that a U.S. airstrike hit a Madrassa (Quranic School) IVO Kismayo in Southern Somalia, which allegedly killed four children and gravely wounded six others.	IVO Kismayo, Somalia	4/19/2018	<b>NOT/NOT CREDIBLE:</b> The allegation does not provide a date on which the alleged CIVCAS occurred, making it difficult or impossible for AFRICOM to determine whether the allegation correlates to recent strikes and eroding the credibility of the allegation overall; - The exact location of the alleged incident could not be located. - The last strike was on 5 April on a Technical Vehicle: 61 miles NNE from Kismayo
5/10/2018	CIVCAS allegation brought to USAFRICOM's attention on 12 May 2018. The location and timing of the allegation corresponds to the geographic location of a known operation, but the number and characterization of those killed varied. The allegation did not contain information or images that correlated to this incident.	IVO Bulcida, Somalia	6/7/2018	<b>NOT/NOT CREDIBLE:</b> The assessment determined that during the course of the operation, the partner force engaged several individuals with small arms fire after these individuals maneuvered against their position from a point of concealment. The assessment concluded that five individuals were killed and one was wounded as a result of

UNCLASSIFIED

				partner force fire. While on-site sensitive site exploitation was not possible, post-operation classified reporting and detainee questioning suggest that the individuals killed and wounded in the raid were al-Shaabab fighters.
6/7/2018	On 05 JUN 2018, The Libya Observer indicated that three civilians and one ISIS fugitive, all from Bani Walid, were killed in an airstrike. An unnamed source identified the ISIS member being sought by U.S. forces and identified the three other EKIA as relatives. The Al-Marsad media outlet similarly identified the objective as an ISIS leader and "presumed" the three other EKIA were not members of ISIS.	IVO Bani Walid, Libya	6/18/2018	<b>NOT/NOT CREDIBLE:</b> Among the confirmed EKIA and the primary target of the strike was the objective. The individuals were directly associating with a significant/leading figure within ISIS-L. The site from which the objective and the other individuals had previously gathered has been the subject of historically derogative reporting. Specifically, the farmhouse was assessed to be an ISIS fighter/vehicle storage/staging location associated with numerous ISIS-L leaders.

6/25/2018	On 25 JUN 18, New America reporter, David Sterman, contacted USAFRICOM PAO to inquire about a CIVCAS allegation concerning a strike IVO Basra, Somalia on 10NOV17. The allegation was featured in a single Voice of America (VOA) news report on 15NOV17. Voice of America indicated that "...A local official told VOA that three civilians were among at least 13 people killed on Saturday when drone-fired missiles targeted militants in the Basra village..." but that "...a Security Ministry spokesman denied the reported civilians death, dismissing it as al-Shabaab propaganda."	IVO Basma, Somalia	7/16/2018	<b>NOT/NOT CREDIBLE:</b> The targeted group was maneuvering, and openly displaying weapons, in an open area approximately 2.5 km north of the closest town, Basra, Somalia. The targeted group was observed massing approximately 2 km from the friendly force location. The strike occurred in the context of an assisted, partner force operation in the area where partner forces came under fire from hostile forces over a period of six hours. USAFRICOM is only aware of the allegations arising in one media report/allegation, and cite only one, unnamed villager. The VOA article itself indicates the Somali government Security Ministry separately assessed no civilians were killed.
-----------	--	--------------------------	-----------	--



## UNCLASSIFIED

6/25/2018	<p>On 25JUN18, New America reporter, David Sterman, contacted USAFRICOM PAO to inquire about a CIVCAS allegation concerning a strike IVO Yoontoy, Somalia on 11APR16. The allegation was featured in a Voice of America (VOA) news report on 12APR16 and in Chinese media reporting on 13APR16. Voice of America ("VOA") stated that "Witnesses and officials told VOA's Somali service that five militants and three civilians were killed in the airstrikes, which hit the al-Shabaab controlled village of Yontoy in Somalia's Lower Juba region." Xinhua (Chinese Media) claimed that recent U.S. airstrikes near Kismayo, Somalia resulted in the deaths of eight people. Their source, an unnamed local resident, said the death toll included five al-Shabaab militants and three civilians, one of whom was claimed to be a woman.</p>	Yoontoy, Somalia	7/16/2018	<p><b>NOT/NOT CREDIBLE:</b> This incident occurred prior to the USAFRICOM CIVCAS SOP implementation; however, (USAFRICOM CCDR) was aware of the CIVCAS allegation and no further action was recommended or directed. 15 persons were observed at a known al-Shabaab bed-down location, during the day of the operation. The engagements occurred over 1.2 km to the east of the closest town and on the opposite side of a river. The targeted group was in an open area, displaying weapons, and not otherwise located in a place or group that would include civilians. The strike occurred in the context of an assisted partner force operation in the area, where partner forces came under fire from hostile forces.</p>
-----------	--	------------------	-----------	--

UNCLASSIFIED

8/2/2018	The initial allegation of CIVCAS was identified in a pro al-Shabaab news website, Somaliamemo.net. The allegation indicated that the three adult males in the vehicle with the objective were civilians. Further, it identified these individuals by name alleging that one was a noted local businessman with the Hormuud Telecom Company. The online article indicated that the other two adult males were well diggers and were engaged in digging a well.	IVO Gobanle, Somali	8/28/2018	<b>NOT/NOT CREDIBLE:</b> Intelligence sources identified two of the four adult males in the vehicle were assessed as armed. The lethal strike was conducted in open, low collateral damage terrain while the four adult males were traveling in a vehicle. None of the individuals observed during target development were observed digging a well as reported by Somaliamemo.net. Several circumstantial factors indicate that the three adult males in the vehicle were associated with al-Shabaab: The three individuals alleged to be civilians were located in a known al-Shabaab stronghold and accompanying a known al-Shabaab leader and no well digging activity or equipment was observed during target development.
8/11/2018	Two allegations of CIVCAS were identified. Somalimemo.net alleged that Somali forces, which received orders from the U.S., killed at least four people on the outskirts of Leego Village. Caasimada.net posted a second allegation, claiming Somali Special Forces, backed by U.S. troops, killed four civilians, including a woman and her child.	IVO Leego, Somalia	9/4/2018	<b>NOT/NOT CREDIBLE:</b> Intelligence garnered from recovered items corroborated that numerous vehicle occupants were associated with al-Shabaab personalities. Intel assesses with high confidence that the cargo truck engaged by partnered forces was

				<p>driven by al-Shabaab personnel who inadvertently encountered the partner forces. Reporting indicates other al-Shabaab within the area fled and maneuvered around partnered forces once their location was identified. Intelligence further corroborates that al-Shabaab members engaged first despite the employment of the escalation of force by partnered forces. Following the engagement, partnered forces did not find the deceased body of a child. To the contrary, partnered forces rescued an uninjured child from the cargo truck and turned him over to local villagers. All available information conclusively indicates that all of the deceased individuals, including the woman, were occupants of the vehicle that fired on partnered forces. Available information also conclusively indicates that partnered forces responded appropriately in self-defense.</p>
--	--	--	--	--

## UNCLASSIFIED

10/19/2018	Casimada Online released an article alleging that 3 children were killed and 1 was injured in the airstrike on 18 October 2018. The article goes on to state that the injured individual was taken to the hospital. The article does not directly accuse the U.S. of conducting the strike but the implication is clear, "It is unclear, who carried out the airstrike in the south of Somalia, but U.S. military often carries out drone strike against Al-Shabaab in south and central Somalia."	IVO Kismayo, Somalia	10/23/2018	<b>NOT/NOT CREDIBLE:</b> Comparing the geographic location and timing of the of the alleged CIVCAS incident to the past missions, the alleged strike did not align with previous offensive or defensive strikes. Additionally, there were no reported munitions released on the day in question (18 October 2018).
10/23/2018	On 23 October 2018, Amnesty International contacted AFRICOM Public Affairs identifying 5 CIVCAS allegations. Subsequently on 26 October AFRICOM Public Affairs and CIVCAS Assessment Cell met with Amnesty International members for an attributional background brief.	Lower Shabelle	12/4/2018	<b>NOT/NOT CREDIBLE:</b> <b>Allegation #1:</b> AFRICOM did not conduct a strike at all in February 2017. <b>Allegation #2:</b> After a review of available information, AFRICOM did not conduct a strike in the geographic area described in the allegation. <b>Allegation #3:</b> After a review of available information including the classified strike video, AFRICOM assesses there is insufficient evidence to find civilians were harmed in this strike. <b>Allegation #4:</b> At this time AFRICOM is still assessing this CIVCAS allegation. Additional information from Amnesty International such as redacted transcripts of interviews, names of the deceased, or other

UNCLASSIFIED



## UNCLASSIFIED

				information on night-time irrigation procedures would help provide more information to better assess the allegation. <b>Allegation #5:</b> AFRICOM did not conduct a strike on the date of the alleged civilian casualty.
11/23/2018	On 23 November 2018, USAFRICOM Public Affairs (AC PA) received an allegation of CIVCAS from Ms. Amanda Sperber (freelance western journalist) was told by a Somali woman currently located in an International Displaced Person's camp IVO Mogadishu. Through Ms. Sperber, "A woman claims that her uncle and 11 family members were killed in Basra sometime around Eid during fighting between Al Shabaab and government forces. She claims she saw something that came from the sky that killed her uncle."	IVO Basra, Somalia	11/29/2018	<b>NOT/NOT CREDIBLE:</b> Comparing the geographic location and timing of the alleged CIVCAS, the alleged strike did NOT align with previous offensive/ defensive airstrikes or reported ground operations that resulted in Troops in Contact.
12/2/2018	On 02 December 2018 Libya News Now published an online article alleging that a US strike was responsible for the death of civilians. The allegation corresponds in space and time to the strike conducted on 29 November 2018 against assessed AQIM Operatives IVO Al Uwaynat in SW Libya.	IVO Al Uwaynat, Libya	2/6/2019	<b>PENDING:</b> The allegation contains uncorroborated information (10 EKIA were civilians) and contradictory intelligence (verified AQIM member with 9 adult males providing material support) associated with the complex human terrain in Southern Libya. The allegation of civilian casualties is inconclusive and is still pending assessment.

UNCLASSIFIED

## UNCLASSIFIED

12/12/2018	On 12 December 2018, AFRICOM public affairs fielded a request for information from Amanda Sperber. Similar to a previous allegation, she was relaying to AFRICOM an allegation of CIVCAS from Mr. Abdirizak Yusuf Mahmoud. He alleges that his uncle and brother were killed in a strike about 20 minutes by foot, outside the village of Shalan Bood in early July 2017.	IVO Shalan Bood, Somalia	12/21/2018	<b>NOT/NOT CREDIBLE:</b> Researching classified documents, all strikes occurring on that date were more than 20 miles away from claimed location of CIVCAS.
------------	---	-----------------------------------	------------	--

UNCLASSIFIED